

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Aslan Ettehadieh (Reg. No .62,278) on July 30, 2008.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
 1. **(Currently Amended)** A line concentrator having a plurality of communication ports for relaying transmissions of communication data exchanged among network-compatible apparatuses connected through the communication ports, comprising:
 - a response storage portion for storing specific response request information and corresponding response information in association with each other;
 - a destination information storage portion for storing destination information of the network-compatible apparatuses connected through the communication ports individually for part or all of the communication ports;
 - a response necessity information storage portion for storing response necessity information indicating whether it is necessary to perform a specific response operation or not for each piece of the destination information; and

a control unit for performing:

a communication data judgment operation for judging whether the communication data is a first communication data which can be answered by returning a proxy response, the first communication data containing, as well as the response request information stored in the response storage portion, a destination included in the destination information stored in the destination storage portion and the response necessity information indicating that it is necessary to respond,

a second communication data which can not be answered by returning a proxy response, the second communication data not containing the response request information stored in the response storage portion, or

an unanswerable communication data other than the first and second communication data;

a transmission prohibit operation for prohibiting signal transmission to the communication port connected to the network-compatible apparatus corresponding to the destination information for which the response necessity information indicates that it is necessary to respond in the case of the unanswerable communication data and the first communication data; and

a proxy response operation for transmitting the response information corresponding to the response request information contained in the first communication data to the network-compatible apparatus from which the first communication data has been sent.

wherein the network compatible apparatus comprises a signal monitoring section for detecting signal transmission from the line concentrator during a power save mode and causing a power supply to transfer to the normal mode when the signal transmission is detected regardless of signal content.

4. (Currently Cancelled)

5. (Currently Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A communication system as in claim 6 further comprising ~~a the~~ network- compatible apparatus, comprising:

a communication port that is connected to ~~a the~~ line concentrator; and

a ~~the~~ power supply for supplying electric power suited for normal mode and electric power suited for power save mode; and

~~a signal monitoring section for detecting signal transmission from the line concentrator during the power save mode and causing the power supply to transfer to the normal mode when the signal transmission is detected regardless of signal content.~~

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are allowable over prior art of record in light of the Examiner's Amendment above.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, teach, or suggest neither singly nor in combination the claimed limitation of "wherein the network compatible apparatus comprises a signal monitoring section for detecting signal transmission from the line concentrator during a power save mode and causing a power supply to transfer to the normal mode when the signal transmission is detected regardless of signal content" as recited in independent claim 1.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Y. Won whose telephone number is 571-272-3993. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th: 7AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Won/

Primary Examiner

July 31, 2008